## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 01765 160101Z
73 ACTION EA-10
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05
/038 W
064476
R 150900Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2797

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ON CIVILIAN DETAINEE

REF: STATE 32424

1. WE RECOMMEND THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN

KOCH'S NOVEMBER 18 LETTER BE AS FOLLOWS:

- 2. OUR EMBASSY IN SAIGON POINTS OUT THAT WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN ADVISERS AND SUPPORT FOR THE VIETNAMESE PRISON SYSTEM AS REQUIRED BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IN AMENDING THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT THE EMBASSY'S ABILITY TO OBTAIN ACCURATE AND DETAILED INFORMATION IN SPECIFIC CASES HAS BEEN SEVERELY CURTAILED.
- 3. THE EMBASSY FURTHER POINTS OUT THAT IT CANNOT WITH ANY DEGREE OF RELIABILITY DETERMINE WHETHER THE ASSERTIONS MADE BY MISS HIEN TO A NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER ARE TRUE MUCH LESS WHETHER THEY ARE ACCURATE. NOR CAN THE EMBASSY STATE THAT STATEMENTS APPARENTLY MADE BY MISS HIEN TO THE REPORTER ARE NOT TRUE ALTHOUGH NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIATE THESE ASSERTIONS HAS COME TO THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION.
- 4. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE EMBASSY WOULD CATEGORICALLY STATE THAT ABUSE OF MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS IS NOT A POLICY OF PRACTICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM ANY MORE THAN IT IS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICY OF PRACTICE OF THE USG OR RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: LEGISLATIVE MAIL, POLITICAL PRISONERS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 15 FEB 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON01765

Document Number: 1975SAIGON01765 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750056-0437

From: SAIGON

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750239/aaaabipl.tel

Line Count: 63

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: STATE 32424

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: izenbei0

Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 28 JUL 2003

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>

**Review Markings:** 

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**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ON CIVILIAN DETAINEE TAGS: PINT, VS, (KOCH, EDWARD I), (DANG THI HIEN)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006